Agenda Date: 12/22/04 Agenda Item: 4E



STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	
APPLICATION OF VERIZON NEW) }	
JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL (I) OF A	Ś	
NEW PLAN FOR AN ALTERNATIVE	Ý	ORDER
FORM OF REGULATION AND (II) TO	<u>'</u>	ONDER
RECLASSIFY MULTI-LINE RATE)	
REGULATED BUSINESS SERVICES AS	ì	
COMPETITIVE SERVICES, AND	· /	
COMPLIANCE FILING.	,	DOCKET NO. TO01020095
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(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

In the above-captioned matter, in addition to considering a Plan for an Alternative Form of Regulation (PAR) for Verizon New Jersey, Inc. (Verizon or the Company), the Board of Public Utilities (Board) considered a proposal by Verizon to reclassify rate regulated multi-line business services as competitive services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.19. After affording interested parties an opportunity to be heard through evidentiary hearings and the submission of briefs, the Board, by Decision and Order dated August 19, 2003, memorializing decisions made at its June 19, 2002 agenda meeting, granted Verizon's request to reclassify as competitive certain services for business customers with five or more lines. The Board did not reclassify services for business customers with two to four lines; however, the Board provided the Company with the ability to adjust rates by 10 percent per year for business customers with two to four lines with the exception of the basic line rate. All services provided to business customers with two to four lines remained rate regulated, and the Board deferred decision on whether or not to reclassify any or all of such services as competitive pending the completion of a customer survey in which information is compiled regarding the availability of customer choice for all classes of business customers with special emphasis on the level of competition for business customers with less than five lines.

To that end, the Board retained the services of the Eagleton Institute Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University (Eagleton) to develop and administer a survey to assess the level

of competition in the local telephone marketplace for New Jersey small to mid-size businesses. The survey was conducted in March-April 2003.

By letter to the Board dated September 3, 2004, Verizon, noting that the survey has been completed, requested that all of its multi-line business services be declared competitive and that the results of the Staff survey be made available to it and all interested parties to the PAR proceeding.

By letter to the Board dated September 21, 2004, AT&T agreed with Verizon that the survey should be released, and further asked that all data, analyses and work papers used to develop the survey and results be provided along with the final report. In addition, it asserted that it was premature for the Board to grant Verizon the competitive status it seeks and that the Board must afford an opportunity for input by all parties as to whether the criteria for reclassification have been demonstrated for business services to customers with two to four lines.

By letter dated December 15, 2004, Board Staff forwarded copies of the survey to the Service List in this matter. In order to allow the parties a further opportunity to be heard with regard to the survey and to update the record, the Board <u>ADOPTS</u> the attached procedural schedule and designates Commissioner Butler to be the presiding Commissioner in this matter.

DATED: 12/23/14

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JEANNE M. FOX PRESIDENT

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

JACK ALTER COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilitie:

Procedural Schedule

Simultaneous Supplemental Testimony to be Filed
Supplemental Testimony Discovery Requests Due
Supplemental Testimony Discovery Responses Due
Rebuttal to Supplemental Testimony to be Filed
Evidentiary Hearings
Initial Briefs Due
Reply Briefs Due
Board Decision

January 10, 2005
January 18, 2005
January 28, 2005
February 4, 2005
February 17-18, 2005
February 25, 2005
March 4, 2005
March 24, 2005

SERVICE LIST

Docket No. TO01020095

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